

# Establishing the Permanent Dependency of an Incapacitated Child



Children incapable of self-support who become incapacitated prior to the age of 21 (or between 21 and 23 if enrolled as a full-time student) can remain in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System and receive continued military benefits and privileges.

## Determining eligibility

For an adult child to be considered eligible, the following criteria must be met:

- Unmarried
- Incapable of self-support because of a mental or physical incapacity that existed before the 21st birthday (or 23rd if enrolled as a full-time student)
- Dependent on the sponsor for more than 50 percent of his or her support or was at the time of the sponsor's death

## Required documentation

Documentation requirements vary between services, but the following is generally required to verify eligibility for establishing permanent dependency of an incapacitated child:

- A birth certificate, if not already enrolled in DEERS
- A parent's marriage certificate, if not already enrolled in DEERS
- A current physician's statement dated within 90 days of application
- A letter from the school registrar reflecting enrollment as a full-time student in an accredited institution of higher learning when the incapacitation occurred (if applicable)



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